



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, PA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition's assessment pilot partners are the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Job Training Pilot will focus on residents from disadvantaged communities impacted by brownfields in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the City of Chester (Delaware County), Pennsylvania; and the City of Norristown (Montgomery County), Pennsylvania. In the City of Philadelphia, over 20 percent of residents live below the poverty level and three-quarters of these residents live near contaminated brownfield sites. In the City of Chester, 24 percent of residents live below the poverty level and over one half of the residents are African American. In Norristown, approximately 10 percent of residents live below the poverty level.

The target cities all lie within the Greater Philadelphia metropolitan area, which historically has been the hub of thriving manufacturing operations that capitalized from being located near the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Hundreds of commercial and industrial

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$100,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 45 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from residents living below the poverty level in the City of Philadelphia, City of Chester, and City of Norristown, which contain hundreds of commercial and industrial facilities that are now abandoned or underused and that are potentially contaminated.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmdb/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

facilities in the area are now abandoned or underused. Many of these facilities have been stigmatized by the threat of potential contamination. The community's efforts to revitalize derelict properties include redevelopment projects at the Kvaerner Philadelphia Shipyard, U.S. Airways Terminal, Marriott Hotel, and Pavilion at Market East. Training of local residents is needed to provide good jobs for disadvantaged residents in the identification, assessment, and cleanup of brownfields in the area.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition plans to train 45 participants, achieve an 80 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from residents living below the poverty level in the Greater Philadelphia metropolitan area, including individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other low-income community residents. The Pilot training program will consist of 210 hours of training, including 40-hour HAZWOPER, lead and asbestos abatement certification, one week of brownfield and environmental education, and three weeks of innovative and alternative technology courses.

The Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the multi-county Partners for Brownfields Initiatives (PBI), Chester Education Foundation, Assets for Redevelopment in Montgomery County, EnviroAce, USA Environmental Management, Inc., and the Tri-County Community Action Agency. The Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition will conduct 16 community outreach sessions to inform residents about brownfields and encourage participation in the training program.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents impacted by brownfields in the City of Philadelphia, City of Chester, and City of Norristown;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.